

carry out this section, \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2001, and such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2002 through 2005."•

By Mr. ABRAHAM (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. GRAHAM, and Mr. INOUE):

S. 2367. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to make improvements to, and permanently authorize, the visa waiver pilot program under the Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

TRAVEL, TOURISM, AND JOBS PRESERVATION  
ACT

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Travel, Tourism, and Jobs Preservation Act. This bill makes the Visa Waiver Pilot Program permanent and strengthens the documentation and reporting requirements established under the pilot program.

This legislation is important not only because it facilitates travel and tourism in the United States, thereby creating many American jobs, but also because it benefits American tourists who wish to travel abroad, since visa requirements are generally waived on a reciprocal basis.

The Visa Waiver Pilot Program authorizes the Attorney General to waive visa requirements for foreign nationals traveling from certain designated countries as temporary visitors for business or pleasure. Aliens from the participating countries complete an admission form prior to arrival and are admitted to stay for up to 90 days.

The criteria for being designated as a Visa Waiver country are as follows: First, the country must extend reciprocal visa-free travel for U.S. citizens. Second, they must have a non-immigrant refusal rate for B-1/B-2 visitor visas at U.S. consulates that is low, averaging less than 2 percent the previous two full fiscal years, with the refusal rate less than 2.5 percent in either year, or less than 3 percent the previous full fiscal year. Third, the countries must have or be in the process of developing a machine-readable passport program. Finally, the Attorney General must conclude that entry into the Visa Waiver Pilot Program will not compromise U.S. law enforcement interests.

Countries are designated by the Attorney General in consultation with the Secretary of State. Nations currently designated as Visa Waiver participants are Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and Uruguay. Greece has been proposed for participation in the program.

The Visa Waiver Pilot Program was established by law in 1986 and became effective in 1988, with 8 countries participating for a period of three years. The program has been considered successful and as such has been expanded to include 29 participating countries. Since 1986, Visa Waiver has been reauthorized on 6 different occasions for periods of one, two, or three years at a time.

The time has come to make the Visa Waiver Pilot Program permanent, and, in the process, to strengthen further current requirements. Its status is no longer truly experimental. No serious disagreement exists that the program should continue in place for the foreseeable future, and no significant problems have been raised with the fundamentals of how it has been operating for the past 14 years. To the contrary, failure to continue the program would cause enormous staffing problems at U.S. consulates, which would have to be suddenly increased substantially to resume issuance of visitor visas. It would also be extremely detrimental to American travelers, who would most certainly find that, given reciprocity, they now would be compelled to obtain visas to travel to Europe and elsewhere. Finally, there are costs to continuing to reauthorize the program on a short-term rather than a permanent basis, as it periodically creates considerable uncertainty in the United States and around the world about what documents travelers planning their foreign travel have to obtain.

Accordingly, I am today introducing the Travel, Tourism, and Jobs Preservation Act. This legislation eliminates the need for frequent extensions of Visa Waiver by making the program permanent. I am pleased to see that the House bill on Visa Waiver also makes the program permanent. Second, the current requirement that countries be in the process of developing a program for issuing machine-readable passports will be replaced with a stricter requirement that all countries in the program as of May 1, 2000 certify by October 1, 2001 that they will have an operational machine-readable passport program by 2003 and that new countries have a machine-readable passport program in place before becoming eligible for designation as a Visa Waiver country. The bill also establishes a deadline of October 1, 2008 by which time all travelers must have machine-readable passports to come to the United States under Visa Waiver. The judgment of everyone involved in these issues is that the technology is now sufficient that it is time for everyone to move from the concept and planning to the prompt implementation of these requirements.

Finally, under the Travel, Tourism, and Jobs Preservation Act, the Attorney General must submit a written report at least once every five years eval-

uating "the effect of each program country's continued designation on the law enforcement and national security interests of the United States." This will ensure that the operation of the program is periodically reviewed. I should note that under current law the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of State, may for any reason (including national security) refrain from waiving the visa requirement in respect to nationals of any country which may otherwise qualify for designation or may, at any time, rescind any waiver or designation previously granted" under Visa Waiver.

I think the additions in the bill strengthen the program while preserving the significant job creation benefits Americans gain from the Visa Waiver program. International travel generates \$95 billion in expenditures and created one million U.S. jobs last year, according to the Travel Industry Association of America. An estimated half of all visitors to the United States enter the country under Visa Waiver.

I would like to thank my cosponsors Senators KENNEDY, LEAHY, DEWINE, JEFFORDS, AKAKA, GRAHAM, and INOUE for supporting this important legislation.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 510

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 510, a bill to preserve the sovereignty of the United States over public lands and acquired lands owned by the United States, and to preserve State sovereignty and private property rights in non-Federal lands surrounding those public lands and acquired lands.

S. 577

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 577, a bill to provide for injunctive relief in Federal district court to enforce State laws relating to the interstate transportation of intoxicating liquor.

S. 670

At the request of Mr. JEFFORDS, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 670, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that the exclusion from gross income for foster care payments shall also apply to payments by qualifying placement agencies, and for other purposes.

S. 867

At the request of Mr. ROTH, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. L. CHAFEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 867, a bill to designate a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as wilderness.

S. 1419

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SMITH), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. COVERDELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1419, a bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to designate May as "National Military Appreciation Month."

S. 1810

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1810, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify and improve veterans' claims and appellate procedures.

S. 1898

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1898, a bill to provide protection against the risks to the public that are inherent in the interstate transportation of violent prisoners.

S. 1921

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. BREAU) were added as cosponsors of S. 1921, a bill to authorize the placement within the site of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial of a plaque to honor Vietnam veterans who died after their service in the Vietnam war, but as a direct result of that service.

S. 1957

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD), the Senator from New York (Mr. MOYNIHAN), and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. TORRICELLI) were added as cosponsors of S. 1957, a bill to provide for the payment of compensation to the families of the Federal employees who were killed in the crash of a United States Air Force CT-43A aircraft on April 3, 1996, near Dubrovnik, Croatia, carrying Secretary of Commerce Ronald H. Brown and 34 others.

S. 1988

At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. FITZGERALD) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1988, a bill to reform the State inspection of meat and poultry in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2004

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2004, a bill to amend title 49 of the United States Code to expand State authority with respect to pipeline safety, to establish new Federal requirements to improve pipeline safety, to authorize appropriations under chapter 601 of that title for fiscal years 2001 through 2005, and for other purposes.

S. 2021

At the request of Mr. BROWNBAC, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2021, a bill to prohibit high school and college sports gambling in all States including States where such gambling was permitted prior to 1991.

S. 2078

At the request of Mr. BUNNING, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SPECTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2078, a bill to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Muhammad Ali in recognition of his outstanding athletic accomplishments and enduring contributions to humanity, and for other purposes.

S. 2107

At the request of Mr. GRAMM, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2107, a bill to amend the Securities Act of 1933 and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to reduce securities fees in excess of those required to fund the operations of the Securities and Exchange Commission, to adjust compensation provisions for employees of the Commission, and for other purposes.

S. 2183

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2183, a bill to ensure the availability of spectrum to amateur radio operators.

S. 2277

At the request of Mr. ROTH, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. GRAHAM) were added as cosponsors of S. 2277, a bill to terminate the application of title IV of the Trade Act of 1974 with respect to the People's Republic of China.

S. 2308

At the request of Mr. MOYNIHAN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. WELLSTONE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2308, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to assure preservation of safety net hospitals through maintenance of the Medicaid disproportionate share hospital program.

S. 2314

At the request of Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2314, a bill for the relief of Elian Gonzalez and other family members.

S. 2323

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE), the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON), and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. FRIST) were added as cosponsors of S. 2323, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to clarify the treatment of stock options under the Act.

S. 2344

At the request of Mr. BROWNBAC, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. ABRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2344, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat payments under the Conservation Reserve Program as rentals from real estate.

S. CON. RES. 32

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 32, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the guaranteed coverage of chiropractic services under the Medicare+Choice program.

S. CON. RES. 54

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 54, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the Auschwitz-Birkenau state museum in Poland should release seven paintings by Auschwitz survivor Dina Babbitt made while she was imprisoned there, and that the governments of the United States and Poland should facilitate the return of Dina Babbitt's artwork to her.

S. CON. RES. 60

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 60, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that a commemorative postage stamp should be issued in honor of the U.S.S. *Wisconsin* and all those who served aboard her.

S. CON. RES. 98

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 98, a concurrent resolution urging compliance with the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.

AMENDMENT NO. 2915

At the request of Mr. WELLSTONE, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2915 proposed to S. Con. Res. 101, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal years 2001 through 2005 and revising the budgetary levels for fiscal year 2000.

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2915 proposed to S. Con. Res. 101, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal years 2001 through 2005 and revising the budgetary levels for fiscal year 2000.

At the request of Mr. DODD, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2915 proposed to S. Con. Res. 101, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for

fiscal years 2001 through 2005 and revising the budgetary levels for fiscal year 2000.

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, her name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2915 proposed to S. Con. Res. 101, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal years 2001 through 2005 and revising the budgetary levels for fiscal year 2000.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 281—TO CONGRATULATE THE MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM ON WINNING THE 2000 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION MEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP**

Mr. ABRAHAM (for himself and Mr. LEVIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

**S. RES. 281**

*Whereas* the Michigan State Spartans were Big Ten Conference regular season co-champions, and were winners of the Big Ten Conference Tournament, and, with a 26-7 record, earned a number one seed in the Midwest region of the 1999-2000 N.C.A.A. Tournament;

*Whereas* the Michigan State Spartans proved their dominance over the Midwest Region in reaching the Final Four, defeating Valparaiso 65-38, Utah 73-61, Syracuse 75-58, and Iowa State 75-64;

*Whereas* in winning the Midwest Region the Michigan State Spartans reached the Men's Final Four for the second year in a row, last year losing to the Duke University Blue Devils in the semifinals;

*Whereas* the Michigan State Spartans vowed after that loss to return to the Final Four in 1999-2000, and to settle for nothing less than the ultimate prize;

*Whereas* the Michigan State Spartans moved one step closer to their goal when they defeated the University of Wisconsin Badgers 53-41 for the fourth time of the 1999-2000 season to reach the championship game;

*Whereas* in that game, the Michigan State Spartans, with an entire team effort that demonstrated why college athletics are so special, defeated the University of Florida Gators 89-76 on April 3, 2000, and won the N.C.A.A. Men's Basketball Championship for the second time in the history of the program;

*Whereas* Coach Tom Izzo, who hails from Iron Mountain, Michigan, in only his fifth year coaching the team, has proven himself to be one of the finest coaches in Men's College Basketball, and he and his staff instilled into the Spartans a will to win second to none, exemplified by their cutthroat defense, which suffocated many potent offenses throughout the season, and particularly in the second half of N.C.A.A. Tournament games;

*Whereas* Mateen Cleaves, Morris Peterson, and A.J. Granger, three seniors who have been playing together for four years and who ended their collegiate careers with a win, spurred this team to victory throughout the year, Mr. Cleaves with his incredible leadership, Mr. Peterson with his clutch shooting, and Mr. Granger with his consistent long marksmanship;

*Whereas* Mateen Cleaves, Morris Peterson, and Charlie Bell, three individuals who hail

from Flint, Michigan, and have thus been given the nickname "The Flintstones," have been playing together since elementary school, and whose comradeship and loyalty to one another carried out onto the floor, and made the Spartans team a family off the floor as well;

*Whereas* Mateen Cleaves, the fearless captain of the team and the all-time assist leader in the Big Ten's history, who led not only with words but also with the example he set, who returned to the championship game after sustaining a high ankle sprain to his right leg, led his team to the title and, like a true champion, made good on his word;

*Whereas* Morris Peterson, named the Big Ten Conference Player of the Year, saved the Michigan State Spartans from the clutches of defeat many times this season, and particularly in the tournament, with his laser-like shooting and stingy defense;

*Whereas* Charlie Bell, perhaps the best rebounding guard in the nation, also led the team with his quickness, tireless defense effort, and athleticism, and who will be counted upon for his leadership next year;

*Whereas* A.J. Granger, displayed his awesome variety of offensive skills in both assisting on, and hitting, several big shots when the Spartans needed them most;

*Whereas* Andre Hutson, the man in the middle, who was often called on to shut down the opposing team's top player, particularly in the 1999-2000 tournament, handled his job with a workmanlike skill that defined professionalism, and in doing so provided the Spartans with the whole package the entire year;

*Whereas* Mike Chappell, Jason Richardson, and Aloysius Anagonye, provided the Spartans with quality minutes off the bench all year, and particularly in the championship game, where they held their own against the vaunted Florida bench;

*Whereas* David Thomas and Adam Ballinger, provided valuable contributions throughout the season and the tournament, both on and off the court, often providing the Spartans with the lift they needed; and

*Whereas* the contributions of Steve Cherry, Mat Ishbia and Brandon Smith, both on the court and in practice, demonstrated the total devotion of the Spartans players to the team concept that made the Spartans into the most dominating college basketball team of the new millennium: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the United States Senate congratulates the Michigan State University Men's Basketball Team on winning the 1999-2000 National Collegiate Athletic Association Men's Basketball Championship.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 282—CONGRATULATING THE HUSKIES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT FOR WINNING THE 2000 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP**

By Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. LIBBERMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

**S. RES. 282**

*Whereas* the University of Connecticut women's basketball team won its second national championship in 5 years by defeating the University of Tennessee by the score of 71-52;

*Whereas* the University of Connecticut Huskies entered the 2000 NCAA Tournament

with a perfect 15-0 record in the Big East Conference and with just one loss during the regular season;

*Whereas* National Coach of the Year Geno Auriemma's team began the season ranked number one in the Nation and will finish the season ranked number one in the Nation;

*Whereas* the University of Connecticut Women Huskies brought the State of Connecticut its second straight NCAA Basketball Title, following the 1999 championship of the University of Connecticut Men's team;

*Whereas* both Shea Ralph and Svetlana Abrosimova were chosen consensus All-Americans; Ralph was selected the NCAA tournament's Most Outstanding Player; Kelly Schumacher set a championship-game record for blocked shots with 9; and Ralph, Abrosimova, Sue Bird, and Asjha Jones were named to the All-Tournament team;

*Whereas* the Huskies dominated March Madness, averaging 91.3 points and a 19-point margin of victory in the tournament;

*Whereas* University of Connecticut's 19-point win over Tennessee, the other powerhouse of women's collegiate basketball, was the second largest margin of victory ever in a championship game;

*Whereas* the high caliber of the University of Connecticut Women Huskies in both athletics and academics has again advanced the sport of women's basketball and provided inspiration for future generations of young female athletes; and

*Whereas* the Huskies' season of accomplishment rallied Connecticut residents of all ages, from Stamford to Storrs, from Norwalk to Norwich, behind a common purpose and inspired a wave of euphoria across the State: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate commends the Huskies of the University of Connecticut for completing the 1999-2000 season with a 36-1 record and winning the 2000 NCAA Women's Basketball Championship.

**AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED**

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001**

**L. CHAFEE (AND FEINSTEIN)  
AMENDMENT NO. 2923**

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. L. CHAFEE (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by them to the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 101) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal years 2001 through 2005 and revising the budgetary levels for fiscal year 2000; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . SENSE OF THE SENATE ON RESTORING FUNDS TO HOSPITALS CUT BY THE BALANCED BUDGET ACT OF 1997.**

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—

(1) the Balanced Budget Reform Act of 1999 provided insufficient relief to hospitals;

(2) in addition to reductions to expenditures under the medicare program, reductions made in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 over 5 years to Federal medicaid disproportionate share hospital (DSH) expenditures threaten the ability of hospitals to provide care for the most vulnerable populations;